

PANIC IN A THEATRE

At Gateshead, County Durham, England, Results in Ten Deaths, INCLUDING NINE CHILDREN.

The Cry of Fire was Started by Seeing a Man Drop a Lighted Match on the Floor--In the Savage Crush and Struggle of the Audience the Stairway Became Blocked with a Withing Mass of Humanity--The Children Literally Trampled to Death. A Frightful Disaster.

LONDON, Dec. 27.--A theatre in Gateshead, county Durham, last night was the scene of a frightful panic, in which at least ten persons, including nine children were killed outright and many were injured. The sight of the slight blaze caused by a man in the audience dropping a lighted match on the saw dust covered floor, caused some one to start the cry of fire and a terrible panic at once ensued. There was immediately a wild rush for the door, which owing to the savage crush and struggle quickly became so blocked that only a few succeeded in at once getting out. There was an especially violent rush for the staircase leading from the gallery. The passage giving access to this staircase became blocked almost at once with persons who were striving their utmost to escape, while the staircase itself was filled with a struggling mass of humanity from the top landing all the way to the outlet.

A check taker was killed in the midst of his heroic efforts to save others' lives. In trying to restrain the crowd in its mad behavior he was thrown to the floor and crushed to death beneath the feet of the panic stricken people.

NINE CHILDREN CRUSHED. When the panic had subsided so that an examination of the premises could be made the bodies of nine children whose lives had been literally crushed out were found lying on the staircase or near a door leading to it.

A constable who came to assist in the work of rescue, on dragging out a boy, who was wedged among the struggling people, discovered that the lad was his own son. The boy, although living when rescued, was terribly injured and died while on the way to his home.

The performance, which was so terribly interrupted, was the second one of Saturday, the attraction being the pantomime of "Aladdin."

The theatre was literally crammed with people. At 10:30 o'clock the shout of fire created a fearful scene. The whole audience rose to their feet en masse and there was dire confusion in the midst of which were heard the shrieks of women, many of whom fainted.

DISPLAYED PRESENCE OF MIND.

The lessee of the house then displayed most creditable presence of mind. Stepping on the stage, he shouted to the audience, beseeching them to remain seated and solemnly assuring them that there was no real danger if they would do so. At this juncture many others of the men present also showed that they retained presence of mind by forcibly striving to detain the crush of the crowd for the doors, but their efforts proved of no avail. The occupants of the pit, and indeed all spectators whose seats were in the better parts of the house, succeeded in escaping safely to the streets. It was a sudden bend in the gallery staircase which caused the fearful jam in that exit. People who had fallen and were lying in heaps here screaming and groaning, were trampled upon.

BLOCKED BY WRITHING HUMAN BEINGS. At last so many of the struggling people had fallen that all passage for exit was effectually blocked by a mass of writhing human beings and those still remaining on their feet were forced to seek other means of escape.

The news of the catastrophe spread rapidly and soon thousands of frantic people were rushing to the scene to ascertain the fate of relatives or friends. Within a few hours all of the dead were identified. All were between the ages of thirteen and sixteen. The names of the dead are: Casely, Robson (2), Clegg, Carten, Watson, Bunbridge, Murray, Waddington and Foster. The last named was check taker.

MICHIGAN ASYLUM FIRE.

The Five Hundred Inmates Provided with Food and Shelter.

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., Dec. 27.--A special to the Democrat from Pontiac says: The situation at the burned Eastern Michigan insane asylum is very much improved to-day. The five hundred inmates who were left without protection by the fire have found quarters in neighboring asylum cottages and in houses in this city, which citizens have kindly placed at the disposal of the asylum authorities. The injured are all greatly improved and a search has revealed but one inmate missing, a man named Steele, from Detroit. The trustees will begin the work of rebuilding at once. The people of this city have also furnished to-day a great amount of food and will continue to do so until the culinary department of the asylum has been re-established.

Boston Shoe Firms Burned Out.

BOSTON, Mass., Dec. 27.--The most disastrous fire which has raged in this city since the Thanksgiving Day blaze of 1889 occurred to-night. It was of somewhat extended area and for a time threatened millions of dollars worth of property. The buildings destroyed were the brick block, 135, 135 and 141 Federal street, owned by the Revere heirs, and occupied by several large shoe firms.

The loss will reach \$500,000. Fully covered by insurance. N. S. Houghland, a fireman, fell through an opening in the floor, a distance of two stories and sustained probable fatal injuries. The cause of the fire is unknown.

Don't Believe It.

LONDON, Dec. 27.--The Chronicle's correspondent at Rome says that the United States government has agreed to pay the indemnity Italy demands on account of the New Orleans affair in order to settle the dispute.

BLAINE'S DOG GOT THE BONE.

A Lively Canine Contest in the Street at Washington.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.--A big English mastiff found a bone yesterday afternoon in front of Riggs's bank. On his massive brass collar was this inscription: "Jose--James G. Blaine, Augusta, Me." Suddenly another dog came from the direction of the White House across Pennsylvania avenue to capture that bone.

The demand was a savage growl; the refusal a vicious snarl. In two seconds the pride of the secretary of state was rolling in the dirt, biting and snapping at the other huge animal, to the intense excitement of William, his keeper, and the great delight of a large holiday crowd that quickly gathered to see the battle.

The fight lasted fully ten minutes. Then the other dog gave up, and Mr. Blaine's backyard was one bone the richer. "Dar ain't no dog in dis yah country wants to fool wid Jose," chuckled William, as he trotted behind the victorious canine, who carried off his prize in his mouth.

The other dog was Daniel, a very valuable St. Bernard, owned by Mr. A. L. Barbour. Its injuries were painful, if not serious. The druggist who attended its wounds said it had been badly bitten in front of the bank and drug store. Mr. Blaine's dog is much older than Daniel. Each is worth several thousand dollars, and several sports who witnessed the encounter said it was the highest toned Christmas dog fight they had ever attended.

"And you notice," remarked one, "that Mr. Blaine's dog got nary scratch and carried off the bone."

These dogs are rivals in the estimate of local dog fanciers, and while their coming together in a fight has not settled the superiority of one over the other on "points," it has proven that Jose has had the benefit of a better instruction and example, and has improved his opportunities.

Garza's Band Will Be Prosecuted.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 27.--Gen. Schofield has received through the Mexican minister, Senor Romero, official dispatches confirming the engagement by Captain Bourke and a detachment of Garza's band of revolutionists.

Gen. Schofield says that if captured Garza's men will be indicted individually for violation of the neutrality laws and for murder, as they fired upon and killed a United States soldier. The dispatches were referred to the American government for such action as deemed necessary. When asked about it to-day Attorney General Miller said that all persons offending against the law will be prosecuted, but it always was necessary to first catch your hare.

Chile at the World's Fair.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.--Lieutenant Harlow, Commissioner for the World's Fair in the republic of Chile, reports to the Bureau of American Republics that he has received the most gratifying encouragement from the government of Chile with regard to its representation at the World's Fair. He encloses a letter from the Minister of foreign affairs at Santiago, in which it is stated that the government and the people of Chile will cheerfully contribute to it, and also ratifies the request previously made for one hundred metres of space as necessary for the products of Chile.

Speaker Crisp's Condition.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.--Speaker Crisp is still confined to his bed with the grip. There is no particular change in his condition and no serious apprehension is felt, but he is greatly exhausted. Mrs. Crisp and the two younger children arrived last night, and will remain in Washington during the session. The speaker's chief trouble arises from the fact that the grip has attacked his throat and he suffers from coughing spells, which disturb his rest and exhaust him.

They Want Ingalls Appointed.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 27.--A special from Wichita says that the Young Men's Republican club of that place last night passed resolutions urging the governor to appoint Mr. Ingalls. Every business, social and political organization in Atchison, the ex-senator's home, have passed similar resolutions, and the current seems now to be setting more strongly than ever in the ex-senator's favor.

Campbell on Cleveland's Prospects.

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 27.--Governor Campbell, of Ohio, was in the city to-night en route to New York. Speaking of the outlook for the Democratic Presidential nomination, he said that he did not think Cleveland would get the necessary two-thirds majority, and if he was not nominated on the first ballot he would be defeated. In the event of Cleveland's defeat, he was of the opinion that a western man, possibly General Palmer, of Illinois, would be chosen.

To Investigate American Workmen's Condition.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.--M. Paul Deschamps, deputy of the Department Eure-et-Loire, Paris, arrived here to-day on the steamship La Champagne. He was appointed by the French government to investigate the social questions and the condition of the workmen of this country. He will meet T. V. Powderly and several other labor leaders, and will visit Baltimore, Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago, New Orleans and San Francisco.

Stabbed the Officers who Shot Them.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Dec. 27.--A special from Lake Linden, Mich., says that while two Finlanders were brandishing knives in the street, Marshal Mayatt and Justice Brule attempted to arrest them. The Finns stabbed both the officers, when the marshal shot and instantly killed Alexander Perola. Michael Kotila, his companion, was also shot in the back and will probably die.

French Minister Arrives.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.--M. Ratenro, French minister to the United States, arrived to-day on the steamship La Champagne. He will proceed to Washington in a few days.

Eleven Deaths From Grip.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.--Eleven cases of death from grip were reported to the health board in this city to-day.

CHILEAN WAR RUMORS.

Prominent Naval Officers Sent to San Francisco in a Hurry.

ONE CRUISER HAS PUT TO SEA

With Large Quantities of Guns and Ammunition--Looking Around for Vessels to be Used for the Transportation of Soldiers--The President Will Send a Vigorous Message to Congress--Peru May Aid the United States in Case of a Conflict With Her Ancient Enemy, Chile.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.--A special to the Press from Washington is as follows: The fact just leaked out that Thursday five prominent officers of the navy, whose names could not be ascertained to-day, were instructed to proceed immediately to San Francisco under sealed orders. The navy department has completed a list of the vessels owned in the United States and now on the Pacific coast which can be used for transports for troops in the event of necessity arising for the immediate transfer of United States soldiers to Chile. It is understood that the mission of the officers above mentioned is to complete arrangements for chartering what vessels may be needed in San Francisco.

There is a well defined rumor to-night to the effect that negotiations with Peru through Minister Hicks have been carried on by the United States for some past, which have resulted in insuring the aid of Chile's old-time enemy in the event of hostilities between this country and Chile. It is supposed that in the event of open hostilities Peruvian seaports will be at the disposal of the United States not only as coaling stations, but as ports of disembarkation for United States troops, who could be promptly sent across the border from Peruvian territory. In return the United States will be likely to aid the Peruvian government in recovering the provinces lost by that nation as a result of the war with Chile a few years ago.

It is now certain that immediately upon the reassembling of Congress, one week from Tuesday, the President will transmit to that body all the correspondence relating to the Chilean unpleasantness. This correspondence will be accompanied by a vigorous letter from the President, asking for instructions. There seems to be a general impression abroad that the Congress, while not going so far as to declare war, will adopt a resolution giving the President power to send such ships and troops to Chile as he may deem expedient.

An Associated Press dispatch from San Francisco says: The cruiser San Francisco, flagship of the Pacific squadron, with Rear Admiral George Brown on board, put to sea from this port this afternoon. It was stated that the cruiser might put into the bay for gun practice, but the fact that she has an unusually large quantity of guns and ammunition aboard, added to the fact that a number of sailors and marines left here on the Pacific Mail Company's steamer San Jose last Wednesday for Acapulco, where it is understood they will be drafted into the cruiser Charleston's crew when she arrives from Honolulu, leads to the belief that the San Francisco is on her way to join the Charleston at Acapulco, whence both vessels will proceed to Chile.

NO MORE "KNOCKING OUT"

To be Indulged in in New York--Sparring Only Permitted.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.--Superintendent of Police Murray announced to-day that as attempts had been made to revive so-called "knocking out" fights, which were prevalent some time ago, but which were stamped out, and that as statements have been made that Charlie Mitchell and Jim Corbett, professional pugilists, were to meet in Madison Square Garden in the early part of February, he would not allow the fight to take place.

"Since that announcement was made," said the superintendent, "another came that Peter Maher and Jack Dempsey will also fight in Madison Square garden in January. Now I am determined that these 'knocking out' contests shall not be revived. There will be no prize fighting in this city. If these men get together and violate the law it is my duty to arrest them, and I will do so. Of course I cannot and do not desire to prohibit sparring exhibitions, but the law does not permit prize fighting."

NO WONDER HE IS DAZED.

Edward M. Field's Condition--He Won't Eat, But Drinks Whisky.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.--Edward M. Field, who is locked up in the Ludlow street jail under heavy bail, still persists in refusing to eat. He has greatly alarmed his physicians, and Warden Fallon was instructed yesterday to give him whisky, of which Field drank two glasses. Field does not talk to anybody. This morning he drank a cup of warm milk. The morning papers were handed to him, and he allowed them to drop to the floor. Field is getting very nervous and appears to be dazed.

Murdered With His Own Weapon.

DETROIT, Mich., Dec. 27.--Yesterday in the corner of a cemetery here the body of Frederick Binden was found literally hacked to pieces. The bloody work had been done with a hatchet which the dead man carried with him to a Christmas tree. The ground in the vicinity gave evidence of a desperate struggle. Robbery is supposed to have been the object of the unknown murderer.

Dalton Escapes Unhurt.

FRESNO, CAL., Dec. 27.--Grattan Dalton, the fugitive train robber who escaped from Visalia jail last September was overtaken by officers yesterday morning and in a desperate fight one of the officers was killed and two of the robber gang wounded. Dalton, however, escaped unhurt. He was convicted of robbing the Southern Pacific train at Allie, in Tulare county, last January.

ALL HANGED TO ONE TREE.

The End of the Notorious Sims Gang. Lynched by a Mob.

SHUBATA, Miss., Dec. 27.--Thursday morning a large body of determined men followed Sims and three of his gang to Sims's home, surrounding the house. Firing by the citizens and also by the gang from Sims's house continued until 3 p. m. Christmas day. After consultation between the sheriff and Sims, the latter agreed to surrender on condition that they be protected and carried to Butler jail. The sheriff promised the best protection he could give under the circumstances. Sims selected twenty-five men and the sheriff twenty-five, and started with them to Butler. About one mile from Sims's house a body of men from one to two hundred strong took them from the guards and hanged them all to one tree. Sims expressed fears that he would never reach the jail dead or alive. When he was placed in the buggy for the fatal ride he refused to be blindfolded. He held out his hand and asked them to feel his pulse to see if he was frightened, and said he was going to heaven. Young Savage said: "If you think enough of me to bury me put me by the side of Sims; we are fighting for the same cause." They died cursing. The women were turned loose. The names of the Simsites hung are: Bob Sims, Tom Savage and Con Savage and his two grown sons.

This ends the defiance of the United States, the state of Alabama, and in fact all laws by the notorious Bob Sims and four of his followers.

LATER.--The lynching still goes on. Two more victims, John Sims, brother of Bob, and Mosely, nephew of Bob, were both hanged last night.

It is reported that Neal Sims has got together about forty men, and intends to burn Womack mill to-day.

NEW YORK CENTRAL VICTIMS.

Funerals Held Yesterday--Mrs. Baldwin's Son Goes Insane.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.--The funerals of Mrs. A. M. Baldwin, Dr. Stephen E. Best and the Misses Libbie Van Arsdale and Mabel Slocum, victims of the Christmas eve New York Central disaster at Hastings, were conducted to-day. The funeral of Mrs. Baldwin, at her late home, 71 East Eighty-fifth street, was largely attended. During the obsequies Mrs. Baldwin's son, Homer, who was in the accident, became greatly affected, and at last his mind gave way and it became necessary to take him from the room. It is feared that he has utterly lost his reason.

The Rev. Phillips Bartlett, a warm personal friend of Dr. Best, conducted his funeral at his late residence, 224 Lenox avenue. The floral offerings were profuse. The remains were taken to Pulaski, N. Y., for burial.

The Rev. John J. Reed, pastor of the Bedford Street church, and Rev. Mr. Edwards, of the Thirtieth Street Presbyterian church, officiated at the obsequies of Misses Van Arsdale and Slocum, at the Bedford Street church. The church was packed to overflowing. Cornelius Vanderbilt, Chauncey M. Depew, Attorney Louis, of the Central road, Manager Toucey, Mr. Hoskell, of the Harlem division, Secretary Taylor, of the Wagner palace car company, and other prominent people were present. Several ladies fainted during the services. The burial of Miss Van Arsdale will be at Montgomery, N. Y., and that of Miss Slocum at Lockport, N. Y.

A MODEST REQUEST.

A Crank who Called for Cornelius Vanderbilt's Brains.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.--Last night at 10:30 o'clock while Mr. Cornelius Vanderbilt was entertaining a number of friends at his Fifth avenue residence, a good-looking, well-dressed young man, apparently a German, rang the street door bell. To the page who answered the summons, the visitor said he had called to see Mr. Vanderbilt personally to get his brains, which he proposed to subject to an expert analysis in order to determine why he (Vanderbilt) had been able to amass a fortune, while he (the caller) was practically penniless.

The page summoned an officer, who took the young man to the station house. In his pockets was found a card bearing the name John J. Lingman, 616 East Eleventh street, also a membership card of the Young Men's Christian Association. The prisoner was taken to the Yorkville police court this morning and committed pending an examination as to his mental condition. He was uncommunicative, and is doubtless insane.

BLACK DIPHTHERIA

Raging in Western Pennsylvania--Whole Families Wiped Out of Existence.

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 27.--A Johnstown dispatch to the Dispatch says: Black diphtheria is epidemic at Fairview, a few miles from here. Dozens of cases have been reported, and the families of Frank and Cooley DeGraw have been entirely wiped out of existence. Of eight children in the two families, seven have died within a month and the last one is not expected to live through the night. The dread disease carries them off in a few days. After death their arms and necks turn black. The citizens of Fairview are frightened and many are leaving the town. At Blairsville, Johnstown and other places in the district, the disease is spreading, but is not so virulent.

A NOVEL SUIT.

Suing the Father for Money Stolen by the Son.

CHICAGO, Dec. 27.--Thomas C. Platt and Chauncey R. Crosby, as representatives of the U. S. Express Company, have begun suit against Leonard Perrin for \$50,000. Perrin is the father of Phelps Perrin, and it is alleged in the complaint that he received of his son and E. W. Baker, the two men convicted of the Hurley, Wis., bank robbery, the \$30,100 of the express company's money taken from the bank. In the complaint the details of the sensational bank robbery are recounted with minuteness. The claim of \$50,000 is made to cover the express company's loss and also the cost of the detective work and the prosecution of the perpetrators of the robbery.

An execution for \$2,445 has been issued by the Farmers' National bank, of Lancaster, Pa., against the Keystone Standard Watch company, of that city. The company is now in the hands of an assignee.

BRUTAL, COWARDLY

Murder of a Florida Railroad Conductor by a Negro Barber.

THE WOODS ARE BEING SCoured

By One Thousand Armed Men, who are Sure to Catch the Murderer. As Many Negroes are Armed with Winchester's and Proclaiming they will Protect Him from Lynching. The Military Ordered Out to Preserve the Peace--A Bloody Race Conflict May Ensnue.

LEESBURG, FLA., Dec. 27.--Nearly 1,000 armed men in Lake county are scouring the woods between the Florida Central & Peninsular railroad track and the shores of Lake Paine in search of a fugitive negro murderer, and about as many negroes with Winchester's are scattered about this place and suburbs proclaiming that they will protect him from lynching if brought in here. Just before daylight this morning J. E. Barramore, a well-known conductor on the Florida Central & Peninsular railroad, was shot and instantly killed while on his train not far from here by Thomas E. Mike, a negro, who keeps a barber shop in this city.

It was one of the most unprovoked, brutal and cowardly murders ever committed in this state. After shooting Barramore, the negro rushed to the platform, jumped from the train and disappeared in the woods. The train was stopped and run back to this station with the body of the murdered man.

An inquest was held and then Sheriff Galloway organized a posse to search for the fugitive. They have six bloodhounds with them and it is the general opinion here that Mike cannot escape. He ran south from the railroad toward Lake Harris. The people still in town feel sure that the murderer will be caught and lynched before midnight unless the negroes succeed in taking him from the sheriff when a bloody race conflict would be sure to follow.

The "Leesburg Killes," about sixty in number, have been ordered out to preserve peace in town, as the negroes threaten it.

SHOT HIS RIVAL

While the Bridal Party was Making Merry. Assassin Arrested.

MERIDIAN, Miss., Dec. 27.--News of a most diabolical murder has just reached the city. On Thursday night Willie Wright and Miss Phillips were married at the residence of the bride's father, twelve miles northwest of Meridian. After the ceremony, the bridal party were in the parlor making merry, when a young man named Johnson crept up to the window and fired the contents of a double-barreled shot gun, loaded with buckshot, into the body of Wright.

Wright fell forward with a groan, dying instantly. In the confusion that ensued, the assassin sought to make his escape, but a constable captured him. Johnson and Wright were rival suitors for the hand of Miss Phillips and Johnson often threatened that if she wedded Wright he would kill him, but she paid no attention to his threats.

GROWING CRITICAL.

Are Affairs in Russia--Prisoners Stricken With Typhoid Fever.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 27.--The prison at Samara, which was built to hold 200 inmates is now crowded with thousands of unfortunates among whom typhus typhoid fever are rife. The doctors, whose duty it is to attend sick prisoners, are in despair and have not visited their charges for a month. A rapid increase in the number of deaths due to the famine is reported to the authorities here.

The government is dispatching troops to districts where riots are likely to break out.

The government officials now refuse to grant permission for private distributions of food or the opening of soup kitchens. All relief must now be given through officials in the name of the czar.

Moscow is threatened with an epidemic of smallpox. Twenty new cases are reported there daily.

Vestibled Train Wrecked.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 27.--The Santa Fe vestibled limited, which left Chicago at six o'clock Saturday evening was derailed at Bear Creek, near Newcomb, 75 miles east of this city at 6 a. m. to-day. No one was killed, though several were badly injured. The cause of the accident cannot now be definitely determined, as the track seems to have been in good condition.

Railroaders Will Strike.

SAN ANTONIO, TEX., Dec. 27.--At 5:30 o'clock to-morrow morning all the employees of the Antonio and Arkansas--Pass Railway Company's operating department will strike, tying up the entire system of 600 miles of road. The trouble dates back to the discharge of Conductor O'Brien by Superintendent Sands for an alleged violation of orders.

Largest Foreign Mail Ever Received.

LONDON, Dec. 27.--The steamer Bothnia sailed from Queenstown for New York to-day. The Bothnia's mails, which include those of the steamer Germania, amount to 1,757 sacks, the largest quantity of mail matter that has ever crossed the Atlantic. The Germania broke her crank shaft while coming to anchor at Queenstown on the 21th, and has been towed back to Liverpool and docked.

Frick Will Soon Have a Monopoly.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Dec. 27.--Negotiations are in progress for the purchase of the Hostetter coke company's plant by the Frick Coke Company. The price to be paid is \$1,500,000 in bonds of the latter concern. If the deal is closed, it will give the Frick company almost a monopoly of the Connellsville coke trade.

FIGHTING AT LONG RANGE.

Garza's Followers and Mexican Troops Have a Brief Engagement.

SAN ANTONIO, TEX., Dec. 27.--The Mexican consul here to-day received a dispatch from Laredo, which states that an engagement at long range took place last night between Garza's followers and the Mexican troops at San Ignaces ranch on this side of the border, between Garza and Laredo. The battle continued for some time and resulted in one Mexican soldier killed and a number on each side wounded. Indirect word concerning the movements of Captain Juarde, of the Third cavalry, was received here this morning and relieved the anxiety as to his safety. He is pushing hard after a detachment of about one hundred of Garza's men and will either have them chased across the river into Mexico or brought to a more critical situation than that within the next forty-eight hours.

Garza's Men Captured.

LAREDO, TEX., Dec. 27.--It is reported that the four prisoners, Garza's men, who were captured near El Vargo, Mexico, by the government troops, were brought to New Laredo to-day. It is understood that the federal authorities will endeavor to secure some kind of confession from these men in order to implicate the leaders of this revolutionary movement. As they are traitors, if they do not confess they will probably be shot.

SIXTEENTH AMENDMENT

To the Constitution to be Submitted to Congress Soon.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.--The national league for the protection of American institutions has prepared an amendment to the constitution of the United States, which will be submitted to both houses of Congress shortly after they resume their sessions. The amendment--which if adopted will be the sixteenth amendment--reads as follows:

No state shall pass any law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the full exercise thereof, or use its property or credit, or any money raised by taxation, or authorize either to issue bonds for the purpose of founding, maintaining or aiding by appropriation, payment for services, expense or otherwise, any church, religious denomination or religious society, or any institution, society or undertaking which is wholly or in part under sectarian or ecclesiastical control.

People Starving in Durango.

CITY OF MEXICO, Dec. 27.--The governor of the state of Durango telegraphs that in that state people are actually dying of starvation. Corn is being sold at cost to the poor, and money or orders for the purchase of corn are being distributed by organized charity. The President has ordered the proper federal officials to aid the poor in Durango, and also in other states where there is any suffering because of scarcity of provisions.

WIRE WAIFS.

Saturday was the one hundred and sixteenth anniversary of the revolutionary battle of Trenton, and it was made notable by the laying of the corner stone of a monument to the memory of Washington and the Continental troops, who, after crossing the icy Delaware during Christmas night, surprised and routed the Hessians, killing a number and taking nearly a thousand prisoners, besides valuable military supplies.

Wm. Reese and Sallie Brown, of Birmingham, Ala., were to have been married Saturday and Friday she made him a Christmas present of a revolver. Saturday morning he called at her home for the wedding, but for some cause she wanted to back out. They were in a room together and high words were heard between them. The next thing was a pistol shot. He had killed the woman with her own Christmas present. Reese escaped.

Mrs. Amy Gillig, wife of Charles A. Gillig, president of Gillig's Exchange Charing Cross, London, has been divorced from her husband at Yankton, Dakota. The applicant charged non-support and desertion. Mr. Gillig filed an answer, setting forth a mutual separation six years ago upon discovering that his wife was intimate with a well known London clergyman.

W. H. Pearsall, wife and family living six miles from Goldsboro, N. C., were burned to death in their dwelling on Tuesday morning. The charred bodies of the victims were discovered yesterday. Wrightman Thompson, a former rejected suitor of the murdered man's wife, has been arrested on suspicion of having committed the crime.

The Carpenter steel works, an industry which was established in Reading, Pa., three years ago, devoted to the manufacture of high grade steel, was almost totally destroyed by fire last night. One small mill and the office are all that are left standing. The works employ nearly 300 men.

The old Wolsey homestead, on the Casino farm in Bowers bay, Long Island, was totally destroyed by fire last night. It was the work of an incendiary. The loss, including the value of the paintings and antique furniture consumed, is estimated at \$100,000; partly insured.

On Saturday, Chattanooga, Tenn., was visited by the most disastrous fire in the history of the city, the buildings destroyed including large business houses and several banks. The total loss is about \$600,000.

The Eastern Michigan insane asylum, at Pontiac, was burned to the ground Saturday morning. The building contained 200 inmates, but so far as heard no one was burned to death. Loss on the building \$500,000.

Marshall Cushing, Postmaster General Wanamaker's private secretary, was married at San Francisco, Saturday, to Mrs. Belle McBride Palmer, a wealthy widow of Washington, D. C.

Isaac Savitelle, who murdered his brother Hiram, died of apoplexy Saturday morning in his cell at the New Hampshire state prison.

Weather Forecast for To-day.

For West Virginia, Ohio and Western Pennsylvania: fair and warmer; south winds; warmer; probably fair Tuesday.

TEMPERATURE SATURDAY.

As furnished by C. SCHNEIDER, draught. Opera House corner.

7 a. m. 35 3 p. m. 43 9 a. m. 35 7 p. m. 33 12 m. 30 5 p. m. 30 Weather--Changeable.